CLACTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Town Hall,

Clacton-on-Sea.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1939.

To the Chairman & Members
of the Clacton U.D.C.

I have the honour of presenting my twentieth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district during 1939. The preparations for war during the year culminating in the actual outbreak of hostilities in September greatly increased the pressure of work of the department, so that the Minister of Health has decided that the contents of the Report for 1939 shall be limited to essential and urgent matters that may have arisen during the year. At the same time arrangements have been made for the careful preservation of all records, including the statistics supplied by the Registrar-General in order that, at the termination of hostilities, a more comprehensive report dealing fully with the period can be made.

Area (acres)	6,470
No. of inhabited Houses, end of 1939.....	8,500
Rateable value	£280,542
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	1,040

Infantile Mortality. Total Infant Deaths. 14.

	1 day.	1 wk.	2 wks.	3 wks.	1 mon.	3 mos.	6 mos.	9 mos.	1 yr.	1-2 yrs	2-5 yrs.
Premature Birth	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prolonged labour.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marasmus.	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Conditions.	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	5	2	1	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-

Total deaths from all ages. 348.

This is an increase of 83 over the previous year, and the majority of the increase was persons over the age of 65 years.

The Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and two full-time Sanitary Inspectors.

Infectious Disease.

	Total Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	12	12	-
Diphtheria.	24	24	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	3	2	-
Chicken Pox.	27	-	-
Poliomyelitis.	2	2	-

Isolation Hospital, 1939.

Admitted.	Died.	Result. Cured.	Remaining in hospital.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Polio-myelitis.	Erysipelas.	Other Diseases.
45	2	43	-	12	24	2	2	5

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply:- The Total quantity of water supplied during the year was 288,719,000 gallons, a decrease of 1.64% when compared with the previous year.

Water Analysis and examination.

Samples taken:-

10 from Pumping Stations.
5 from Town Supply.
4 from Wells.
6 from Bathing Pools.

Sewerage and Drainage:-

The following report as regards the position during 1939 is supplied by the Surveyor:-

"During the year nearly two miles of sewers were laid within the Urban District.

The foul and surface water sewering included in the private street works contract covering the eastern portion of Holland-on-Sea was completed, a length of practically 1¼ miles of pipe line being laid. A contract has been let for the outfall sewer which will receive the surface water discharge from the greater part of the area referred to, and it is expected that this will shortly be put in hand.

The only private estate development entered into during the year was the foul and surface water sewering of a section of road on the Merrilees Estate, Holland-on-Sea.

With regard to sewers completed by the Council in public roads a total length of nearly two-thirds of a mile was laid. The greater portion was in the section of the West Drainage Scheme which provides for a new storm water outfall on the west beach opposite Butlin's Holiday Camp, a length of pipe line 33" and 36" diameter being laid adjacent to the West Road from Wash Lane to the site of a screen chamber near the Golf Club House. The remainder of this contract, including the laying of a 51" steel overflow bordering the Golf Course with 51" and 24" diameter sea outfalls, is in hand."

Closet Accommodation, etc.

Number of privies in Clacton.....	Nil
" " Pail Closets.....	1,117
" " Cesspools.....	482
" " Wells.....	26
Houses with Cesspools and Wells.....	35

Conversions.

Number of Pail Closets converted.....	1
" " Cesspools abolished.....	47
Premises redrained and connected to Public Sewer.	46

Swimming Baths :- 1 Swimming bath on the Pier and 1 at Butlin's Holiday Camp were in use during the Summer months. Samples of water taken in June, July and August were found to be satisfactory.

Work of the Sanitary Department.

The following is a synopsis of the principal work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the past year :-

Special Visits	2291
Special Visits re Nuisances	433
Re-inspections Ordinary	666
Re-inspections Housing	288
Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc	163
Piggeries inspected	27
Stables inspected	46
Smoke observations	13
Cinemas inspected	2
Celluloid Regulation inspections	2
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. inspections	119
Preliminary Notices served	197
Statutory Notices served	16
Letters to Owners re nuisances	67
Premises at which nuisances abated: General	308
" " " " Housing	84
Improvements following Preliminary Notices	346
" " Statutory Notices	14
" without notices	300

Infectious Disease.

22 cases of Diphtheria investigated.
12 " " Scarlet Fever "
2 " " Poliomyelitis "
1 " " Erysipelas "
1 " " Whooping Cough "
4 " " other diseases "

82 rooms, bedding, etc. disinfected.
52 lots of bedding steam disinfected
4 lots of clothing " "
1 lot of bedding destroyed.
24 Library books disinfected.
2 " " destroyed.
1 T.B. shelter disinfected.
41 Ration books disinfected.

The following were disinfected for the Military Authorities from the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps Camp (Ex Butlin's).

2,370 blankets steam disinfected.
4 lots of bedding steam disinfected.
4 " " Clothing " "

Milk and Dairies.

Speaking generally, apart from the seasonal rise in the bacteria count during the summer, indications point to greater care being taken by Producers and retailers to supply the public with good clean milk.

Hairdressers and Barbers (Byelaws).

The poorer type of premises give most trouble, and it has

been necessary to issue several cautions, regarding dirty hair brushes, unswept floors, etc.

Meat and Food Inspection.

519 Visits were made to Slaughterhouses during the time of slaughter, and 408 visits to butchers' premises; generally the quality of meat was excellent.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of refuse was carried out mainly by mechanical vehicles, all except one being rear loaders.

Large hotels, restaurants, fish shops and boarding houses are during the season cleared daily. Refuse in the inner area of the town is, during the height of the season, collected twice each week.

Trade premises receive attention by agreement, a charge being made for services rendered.

Refuse from the Military Camp is delivered by them to the Disposal Works.

A total of 6321 tons was collected at a net cost of £2,378.10.8, including depreciation and loan charges.

Income from trade refuse amounted to £335. 11. 3d.

Disposal.

Disposal is by incineration and controlled tipping.

Very little is tipped during the winter months but owing to the influx of visitors and incapacity of the works it is necessary to tip the greater portion of the increase.

The refuse is tipped in fingers, screenings from the works are used for covering.

Apart from war needs the salvage of materials is always carried out. Income derived from this source being £441.4.2.

Of the refuse dealt with at the works, 2,151 tons were tipped and 4,363 tons incinerated.

Net cost of collection per ton including depreciation and loan charges 7/6d, excluding 6/8d.

Disposal per ton including depreciation and loan charges 3/5d, excluding 2/2d.

The incidence of the principal infectious diseases was somewhat in excess of last year owing to Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever in resident institutions.

Port Sanitary Regulations. No action was required during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W.A.MILNE.

Medical Officer of Health.